

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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A Habitation For God



'Twas David's longing and desire,
While life's short pilgrimage he trod,
To find on earth with great aspire
A habitation for his God.

He heard while yet in Bethlehem
About the holy Ark's sojourn,
And Israel's hist'ry sad and dim;
He prayed and longed for its return.

When he ascended to the throne
With foes subdued all round about,
Plans laid he down and made them known
For Solomon to carry out.

The Ark he temporarily placed
Within a tent, but made decree
A mighty temple to be raised
As God had patterned it to be.

But not in temples made with hands
The God of David longed to dwell,
And Solomon's house no longer stands,
And gone the hosts of Israel.

Yet One has come God's House to build,
A Mighty Architect is He,
A Structure with God's Glory filled,
Designed in human hearts to be.

When Christ the Saviour died for sin,
The temple's veil was rent in twain:
And now He seeks to enter in
To hearts redeemed from sinful stain.

We are the temple of God now,
"Arise, O Lord, into Thy rest!"
Write, as we low before Thee bow,
Upon our hearts Thy precepts blest.

O friend, will it be thy desire,
While life's short pilgrimage ye trod,
To find on earth with great aspire
A habitation for thy God?

—Leslie Busbee

God's Habitation in His People



It has been God's desire and plan ever since man fell from His favor into sin, to restore mankind to that original plane of purity where He could dwell within the souls that He created, and man's body and soul would become a habitation of God. The divine plan was progressive in fulfillment. Under the Old Testament, He dwelt among His people, but under the New Testament God dwells in His people by the agency of the Holy Spirit.

We find that when God conversed with Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave to Moses a plan, a blueprint, a pattern for a tabernacle. "Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it." Ex. 25:8,9. In the giving of the pattern Moses was admonished several times to keep strict conformity to this pattern that God was giving him. We find that Moses obeyed the Lord. In Exodus 40:33,34, it tells that Moses finished the work, and that the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. God put His blessing and approval on that dwelling place among His people.

This tabernacle that Moses constructed under God's direction is a shadow and type of the New Testament experience of full salvation. Here the two works of the grace of God are clearly foreshadowed. Regardless of how many people today deny this, their doctrine finds no real support from the Scriptures. In front of the tabernacle, inside the enclosure that surrounds it, was placed the altar of burnt offering overlaid with brass. Between this brazen altar and the entrance to the tabernacle was a laver that contained pure water. The priests offered the sacrifices upon this altar, having first poured out the blood of the sacrifice. They were to wash their hands and feet before entering into the first room of the sanctuary, which was the Holy Place. The sanctuary was divided into two rooms by a heavy veil. In the first part, as you entered, there set at the right hand the table whereon unleavened bread was placed. At the left was the golden candlestick that was to be kept burning perpetually. In front of the veil that separated the two compartments there was the altar of incense overlaid with gold. Blood was sprinkled on this altar, and incense was burned there. Inside the second part (called the Most

Holy Place) was the Ark of the Covenant in which were placed the tables of stone that God had given to Moses whereon was inscribed the Law, the Ten Commandments. Upon the Ark was the mercy seat, over which were figures of angels; two angels were facing each other with their wings overspreading the mercy seat and touching each other. Listen what God said about that place: "And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel." Exodus 25:22.

What all this is a picture of is very evident according to the application in the New Testament. If you will earnestly and prayerfully read the 9th and 10th chapters of Hebrews, you will find what it really means to us. The priests ministered every day in the first room of the sanctuary, but only the High Priest entered into the Most Holy Place, and this He did only once each year. He entered into this Most Holy Place once each year with blood for the atonement of the sins of the children of Israel. One aspect of this type symbolized Christ Jesus entering into heaven itself to obtain eternal redemption for us. The other aspect of this type foreshadowed the entrance of the believer through the veil (Christ's flesh) which was rent in twain from top to bottom when Jesus was crucified. This opened up the Most Holy place for us, but it was not open to the people before Christ's death. We can enter now into the Most Holy place. We come by way of the cross, through faith in His blood to justify and forgive us of our sins. We wash ourselves by obeying His Word and His doctrine. We eat of the Bread of Life. We walk in the light of regeneration. We offer ourselves to God in complete consecration and faith. God sanctifies and cleanses us and we are given entrance into the presence of God and the fullness of His grace. This is God's habitation. This is the dwelling that He designs to live in. It is the fulfillment of the pattern of that earthly sanctuary that Moses built and the temple that Solomon built in later times.

My dear friend, if you will search the Scriptures with an honest and sincere desire to know the truth, I am persuaded that you will see this truth. God sent Jesus not only to save us, but that we might be sanctified. Sanctification is the work of the Holy Ghost coming into our hearts and lives. It takes that holy blood of Jesus to accomplish this. There is a cleansing in sanctification. The very soul of man is purged from the nature and principle of sin, and filled with the divine nature. Oh, how Satan hates this doctrine of the Holy Bible! Any kind of confusion and strife he can get going to cloud men's minds concerning this vital work of the Holy Spirit is just the fruit of his malicious desire. God wants us to enter the Most Holy place. It is for us. Seek after it with all of your heart. Seek for understanding on this vital truth. God will bless you and lead you right on into the fullness of His grace.

—Leslie Busbee

Many seek God and find Him not because they seek Him for what He has to give, rather than for what He is Himself. There are those who would like very much to live like God, but are not willing to pay the price to become like God.

—C. E. Orr

Evidences of the New Birth



He who is born again, hates sin, and will not, dare not yield to it. "He that committeth sin," says the Apostle, "is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning." This is a sure mark of the devil's children; they do his works. The same Apostle says, "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." Have you this mark of the new birth? Are you saved from sin?

He who is born again, has the witness within him that he is a new creature, and stands in a new relation to the Holy Trinity. He is regenerated, renewed, transformed, and created after God's likeness, and has a sweet consciousness of it in his own soul. He has not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but he has received the Spirit of adoption, whereby he cries, "Abba Father." The Spirit itself beareth witness with his spirit that he is a child of God: and if a child, then an heir; an heir of God, and a joint heir with Christ. He belongs to the family of God, the flock of God, the building of God. He is the friend of God, the heritage of God, the treasure of God, the image of God, the glory of God, the temple of God, and the habitation of God. He belongs to the fold of Christ, is a member of Christ, a part of the spiritual body of Christ. He knows all this by happy experience. Have you this mark of regeneration?

He who is born again, has peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. The Morning Star arises in his heart; the sunshine of prosperity rests upon him; and his heaven-born and heaven-directed soul is unspeakably happy. "Great peace have they that love thy law." "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." "Whom, having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable, and full of glory." "Your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you." What a different peace, what a different joy, to the peace and joy of the sinner. The peace of the sinner is a false peace, and his joy is as the crackling of thorns under a pot. The peace of the believer is the peace of Christ, and his joy is before God, and from God, and in God. What numbers there are of professing Christians who are destitute of this evidence. They once, no doubt, had it, but they have lost it. They have sinned, and thereby brought unrest into their souls. Their hearts have departed from God, and the peace of God has departed from their hearts. How is it with you?

To attend to the outward duties of religion while a change of heart is overlooked, is vain, and will avail nothing, either in death's solemn hour, or at the bar of God. Without spiritual regeneration, none of your good works are acceptable in the sight of God.

Some think they are born again, because they can remember the time when, the place where, they obtained pardon, and have a distinct recollection of their experience. To prevent a mistake on this all-important point, you must not fall back upon what you once experienced, but examine your present state. Ask yourself, Am I born again now? Am I at present in a state of acceptability with God? Have I now the marks of a new creature, of one who is born again of the Spirit? You may have experienced this divine change in days gone

by, and lost it; hence it behooves you to examine your present condition.
—S. Henn

How to Face Problems

"Grandma, you are getting a ticket!" Connie said, as she ran out of the office of the Carpenter Paper Company with me following her. We had parked on the street in the commercial loading zone to pick up an order, as the loading dock was full. Of course, I had to pay a ten-dollar fine because I didn't have our company name on my car; therefore, it was illegal to park in that zone, which was something I did not know. But I just thanked the Lord that I happened to have the money to pay the fine and could take care of it without another trip to Oklahoma City.

Later, my granddaughter and I were talking about the things of the Lord and mentioned again the trouble that we had. My granddaughter made a remark that has stayed with me. She said that it wasn't so much the trouble that we have that bothers us, as the attitude we take toward our troubles. How true! If we moan, groan, and cry because we have made a mistake and have to pay a fine, then we really will feel low in spirits, but if we count it all as an experience to profit by, then we can face it and not feel such great distress. Someone can mistreat us, and if we let some ill will get into our heart toward that person, that will cause us to feel very bad. If we forgive and have a right attitude, we can go right on and face the person with no problems or wrong feelings. Right attitudes are what the Lord wants us to have as we face life's problems.

Let us think about Paul and Silas who were beaten and put in the inner prison in stocks. We know that they had severe pains from their untended wounds. They were uncomfortable, to say the least, and were banished from their loved ones and the outside world. They did not know what would come to them next. Let us check their attitudes toward their problems. Listen, what are they doing? Oh, they are praying now! As we listen longer we hear them singing songs. What kind of an attitude do they have? It is faith, trust, rest, forgiveness toward their enemies, peace, love, and all that God has for those who are His children. Act. 16:25.

Bro. Delmar Craddock, who made a garden for the office workers, planted a fall garden. When the string beans were just up and looking good, a rabbit ate most of them. The other things he planted died, but when he mentions it, he just smiles. His attitude toward all of his hard work is right. Only God can help us take the right attitude.

Sis. Evelyn McCoy mentioned the pain that she has from her affliction, but added that she is thankful that it is no worse. Bro. Wayne Murphey was told about what someone had said about him, but he said it didn't bother him. On and on I could name those of God's children that are taking right attitudes toward the problems they are facing. Only God can help us keep that joy in our hearts in the midst of trouble. Remember that it is not so much what the problem is that will affect us, but it is the attitude we take toward it.
—Sis. Marie Miles

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Nearing the End

I have often heard the saying,
Life on earth is but a span,
And is briefly comprehended
By threescore years and ten.
If by God-given strength they be
Fourscore years or more,
There shall be labor and sorrow,
And burdens to be borne.
The Lord has stood by me,
And wiped away many of my tears
And helped me bear my burdens
In my declining years.
The prayers of saints have helped
Dark shadows to dispel.
I praise the Lord and sing,
For me now all is well.
Life's evening sun is sinking
Low in the western sky;
My day will soon be ended,
I'll bid this world good-bye,
My Saviour walks beside me—
Praise God! I'm not alone.
I'll join the holy blood-washed band
Around the shining throne.
Oh, what a happy meeting
With saints from every land,
And Christ the King upon His throne,
And all the angel band.
The conflict will be ended;
I'll lay my armor down,
And there with all the faithful
Receive a shining crown.

—Ulysses-Phillips

A Bright Anticipation

Let your mind dwell much on heaven. It will do you good to think of death if you think of it as you should, if you look upon it as the open door to the glories of heaven. Remember that it is sure to come. Learn to look upon it as you do a messenger you are expecting to come with glad tidings to you. Do not wait for Death in fear, but wait as you would for a loving friend. It has lost its sting. Jesus removed the sting and placed a blessing in its stead. Be busy while you are waiting. Guard against idleness even in your old days. Keep busy to the last. Let no moments go by unemployed. Do not give place to that inclination to slow down and take life easy because you are growing old. Do not entertain the thought that there is no more now for you to do but to fold your hands and wait the coming of the angels. Let us pray that in our dying hour we may magnify Christ. Always be of good cheer. Never let your heart be troubled. Live holy, live prayerfully, trust God in all things and for all things.

—C. E. Orr

"I do not ask my cross to understand,
My way to see—
Better in darkness just to feel Thy hand,
And follow Thee."
—Sel.

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend campmeetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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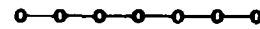
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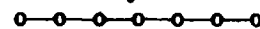


THE CYCLE OF TIME has brought us around to the autumn season. The summer is ended, and the campmeeting season is about over. We rejoice for the many souls that were saved in the tent and campmeetings, but alas, the multitudes are still rushing down the broad way to eternal destruction. The poet wrote so true: "Every second, sad to tell, counts another soul in hell." What more can be done to rescue the perishing and care for the dying? The song writer exhorts us to "rescue the perishing, care for the dying, snatch them in pity from sin and the grave; weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen, tell them of Jesus the mighty to save!" The gospel day is swiftly coming to a close with the sun hanging low in the west. We must redouble our efforts to rescue at least a few more precious souls before that eternal night cometh when no man can work.

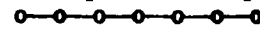


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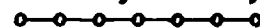
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Just off the press is a 24-page booklet by Bro. D. S. Warner entitled, "Must We Sin?", which is a supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Very clear and definite on the subject, this booklet is priced at 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00, plus 30c for postage.



On the press is a reprint edition of the excellent book, "Beyond The Tomb" by H. M. Riggle, which has been out of print for many years. It consists of 288 pages, dealing with man, his present and future. This edition will be finished in a nice cloth cover, and we expect the books to be ready for delivery about November 15. The price is \$4.00 per copy, plus 45c for postage and handling. You may send your order now with remittance and we will mail the book as soon as they are ready.



In March, 1967, over ten years ago, this writer had a dream which indicated that a tragic event would occur in the year of 1979, especially affecting the world of lost sinners. Though the dream was very impressive, this writer has not yet received a definite interpretation of it from the Lord. Whether

this great calamity for the unsaved about two years in the future is another global war or the end of the world, I cannot say. However, it should serve as a warning to all those who are unprepared to meet the Lord. The signs of the last days just prior to the final coming of the Lord are being fulfilled very rapidly, and it is a normal, healthy, spiritual attitude for every child of God to be looking for His appearance momentarily. Whether He calls one from this life or comes in fulfillment of His promised second advent, one must be prepared, for in either event his destiny is sealed.

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Campground Building Project in Oregon . . .

The saints of the Church of God at Jefferson, Oregon, where Bro. Ostis B. Wilson is the pastor, are in the midst of a building project to improve their new campground near Jefferson. Brother H. Ernest Burditt, a carpenter of Oklahoma City, is there working on the chapel building, and they are using volunteer labor as much as possible. As you know, building costs are high and going higher, and I am certain they would welcome and be grateful for any and all contributions of money and labor. Especially all the saints in the Northwest should be concerned about the improvements on the campground as this is the only place in that area where the state and regional meetings are held. Ask the Lord what He would have you to do for this worthy cause, and send your free-will offerings directly to Bro. Clifford Smith, 600 Fairview St., Salem, Oregon 97302.

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Mission Work in the Philippines . . .

Brothers Florencio and Benjamin Granil, the native ministers in the Philippine Islands, write that the gospel work is progressing in their field of labor in spite of the opposition from false teachers. Honest souls are acknowledging the Bible truth which these brethren teach and stand for. A new congregation is being started in the mountain region, and a bamboo chapel is already erected. Continue to pray for and support these missionary efforts in order that the truth of the "evening light" may be firmly established in that part of the world.

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The Awful Sin of Homosexuality . . .

The gross sins of homosexuality and lesbianism have become widespread in these last days, fulfilling the Scripture that evil men and seducers will wax worse and worse. It is told that one out of every ten American men are either homosexuals or homosexually inclined. That is a shocking proportion. The chief aim of the homosexual is to recruit others, and this is what makes this terrible sin so dangerous. Thousands of our young boys are enticed, and often drawn into this web of deceit and this malignity of darkness because of promises, inexperience, and plain gullibility. Many, as a result, eventually become one themselves.

God hates the sin of homosexuality as well as all sin because He knows its destructive power. God

destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone because of the terrible sin of homosexuality. It is a sin against society, against the human body, against nature, and it is a very base sin against God. Read God's exposition and denunciation of that sin in Romans 1:26, 27, 32. You cannot be a homosexual and a child of God at the same time, but remember that the blood of Jesus Christ can set you free from every evil power of Satan regardless of what it is or how long standing.

The diabolical scheme of Satan today is to boldly and publicly educate or brainwash our society that they may look upon the homosexual as normal. Even efforts are being made to strike the laws from the books that guard our children and the rest of society from this plague of Satan. To oppose this filthy movement, we should have laws on the books to help protect society and our innocent children from becoming victims of this scourge of darkness. The saints are in the world, but not of the world, and we must trust God's power to preserve us and our children from the evils in the world.

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Sister C. B. Nelson of Durham, N. C., informs us that her mother, Sister P. R. Bowers of Swainsboro, Ga., went to be with the Lord on Sept. 4, 1977, from her home in Durham, N. C. Sister Bowers, who had been in ill health for some time, was a long-time reader of the literature from this office. May the Lord comfort her daughter, Sister Nelson, and all the bereaved relatives and saints.

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Another shipment of 10,000 pounds of printing paper has been ordered to be delivered from the paper mill on October 15, 1977. Of course, the price is higher than the last shipment, but the gospel literature must go forth, and we are trusting our heavenly Father to supply the needs of His work just as He has done over the past 54 years. May the Lord bless all those who have been praying for and supporting His publishing work so faithfully. You will surely come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves on that final day.

—L. D. Pruitt

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Partial List of Items Available

Evening Light Songs, shaped notes, with 512 pages in cloth binding. The right hymnal for the Church of God. Price, \$3.00 each.

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$5.00 each.

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What The Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. A reprint of the original 1914 edition, containing 576 pages in cloth binding. This is a book that should be in every home. Price, \$5.00 each.

The Christian Church; Its Rise and Progress, by H. M. Riggle. Bound in cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$5.00.

The Revelation Explained by F. G. Smith. Reprint of 1906 original edition (fourth reprint), plus two 17x22 inch wall charts in two colors. 464 pages in nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

Experiences of S. O. Susag is a record of the activities of S. O. Susag, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister of the Church of God. Price, 1.50 each.

The Last Reformation by F. G. Smith. Just recently made available, this reprint edition contains 256 pages. Nice paper binding is priced at \$3.00 each, and the cloth binding is \$5.00 each.

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Life's Golden Gleanings by Ruby E. Stover. She records many experiences of her childhood, and how God answered prayer in marvelous ways in her family and through the years in the gospel work. 94 pages in nice paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

The Great Physician by Mrs. Lucie Newman, which is a booklet of 32 pages in a paper binding. This is a faith-inspiring, true story of a young lady who was miraculously healed by the prayer of faith in God after she was given up to die by the medical profession. Price, 35c each, or three copies for \$1.00.

Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside compiled by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggle. Originally published in 1902, this excellent volume contains 432 pages of Scripture references and comments on many Bible subjects. Nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00.

Tim and His Lamp, re-written by Fern Stubblefield. This excellent booklet of 52 pages for children and young people is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 35c each, or three copies for \$1.00.

From Darkness To Light, a twenty-page booklet by Bro. Mart Samons, which is his inspiring testimony of his marvelous conversion, his call to the ministry, and some of his experiences of living by faith in the gospel work. Price, 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00.

Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. An instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in the grace of sanctification. 128 pages in paper cover. Price, \$1.00 per copy.

Parent and Child by J. W. Byers. Out of print for many years, this 60-page booklet with a heavy paper cover is heartily recommended for young parents to aid them in their child-training. Price, 40c each, or three copies for \$1.00.

Echoes From Heaven—a new song book of 195 songs in shaped notes. In a heavy paper cover, this song book is priced at \$1.65 each.

Life's Story and Healings by Sister Nellie Poulos. Just off the press, this book is a reprint of her book which had been out of print for a number of years. With additional material, this volume contains 160 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.25 each.

Christian Baptism, Feet Washing, and the Lord's Supper by H. M. Riggle. This excellent doctrinal book on the three ordinances of the New Testament contains 264 pages in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$3.00 each.

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24-page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00.

Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. Consists of 108 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, 50 cents each.

Courtship and Marriage, a 12-page pamphlet which was copied from a taped sermon delivered by Bro. Ostis Wilson to a group of young people in Oregon in 1976. These vital Bible truths in printed form should be in the hands of every person, young and old, who is contemplating marriage. In order to encourage a wide circulation of this pamphlet, we are offering it free of charge here at the office in limited quantities. For mail orders, please enclose a coin or stamps for postage.

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OBITUARY



Bro. A. H. Haynes, born July 24, 1900, in Nowata County, Okla., Indian Territory, passed from this life on Aug. 24, 1977.

He was first married to Edna Marie Bates on May 3, 1928, and she died June 21, 1970. He later married Elsie Mae Dart (Bro. Clarence Fry's sister) on Feb. 6, 1971, and she survives at the home.

He was a member of the Church of God in Nowata, Okla. He and his wife had recently gotten saved in his front yard with Bro. and Sis. Fry, Bro. L. D. Chrisman, and his pastor's family helping to pray through to victory. He enjoyed living for the Lord and had a glow on his countenance.

In addition to his wife, survivors include three sons: John L. of Burton, Ks., Harvey R. of Nowata, Okla., and Richard L. Haynes of Everett, Wash.; a brother, Ervin Haynes, Escondido, Calif., and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by his pastor, Bro. Gordon Humphrey. Interment was in the Memorial Park Cemetery in Nowata, Okla.

BOLEY, OKLA., CAMPMEETING REPORT

We had a very blessed campmeeting here in Boley, Okla., which is now on record. Several were saved and others were sanctified and healed.

We were blessed in this meeting to have with us Bro. Ulysses Phillips from California and Sister Mattie Savage from Florida who brought several messages. We give thanks to God for them and for all the visiting ministers coming from far and near, bringing messages against sin. We believe the Lord put it in their hearts to come and we are grateful.

We appreciate every effort put forth for the success of this meeting.
—Ethel Brown

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMPMEETING REPORT

We are very thankful to the dear Lord for how He blessed in the California State campmeeting in Pacoima,

for the ministers and workers who labored in the meeting, and we thank you for your prayers.

The Lord blessed the Word, and by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, souls were saved, sanctified, and others received spiritual help.

The Lord made it possible for some sisters to attend the entire meeting who had never been with us before. Many remained throughout the meeting and God blessed wonderfully. It was precious.

We are thankful for all who were a blessing to this meeting and trust they also received a blessing.

—Wynema Clay

ALL-DAY YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING AT BOLEY, OKLAHOMA

Lord willing, there will be all-day services and young people's meeting in Boley, Okla., on the campground of the Church of God on Sunday, Oct. 2, 1977. We extend a warm welcome to all.

We are in dire need of a dining hall in Boley. The old one needs so much repair and would cost so much to repair it that the saints feel it would be better to build a new building. We need a larger one to accommodate the crowd that we have in revivals and campmeetings. Should there be anyone who would like to share in this need, you may mail your contribution to the treasurer, Sister Anna Mae Thompson, Route 1, Box 71-A, Boley, Okla. 74829.

Thank you very kindly,

—Sis. Katherine Williams, pastor

ALL-DAY MEETINGS AT DAYTON, OHIO

The Church of God in Dayton, Ohio, will have, Lord willing, all-day meetings on the second Sundays of October and November, which are Oct. 9 and Nov. 13. You are cordially invited to these services. The chapel is located at 622 Tyron Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.

For further information, contact Bro. and Sister John Gutwein, 4008 Gardenvue Dr., Dayton, Ohio 45431, phone 513-426-8159.

HOFFMAN, OKLA., AUTUMN REVIVAL

Lord willing, the annual autumn revival meeting at the Church of God chapel in Hoffman, Okla., will be held Nov. 8 through 13, 1977. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. We will appreciate your presence and your prayers.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Woodrow Warren, 810 North Porter, Okmulgee, Okla. 74447, or phone (918) 756-6425. —Sis. Lorene Payne

MEETING AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.

The saints in Springfield, Mo., desire to have a meeting from Oct. 26 through Oct. 30, 1977, with all-day services on Sunday, Oct. 30. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of His choosing. So you God-sent ministers, are you willing to say, "Here am I, send me"? All are welcome.

The chapel is located at 720 N. Kansas, Springfield, Missouri.
—Murphy Allen

ALL-DAY MEETINGS AT NEOSHO, MO.

Every fourth Sunday of the month an all-day meeting is held at the Church of God chapel in Neosho, Mo., which is located on Freeman Road south of the Fish Hatchery. You are cordially invited to attend these special services as well as all the regular services at this chapel.

For further information, contact Bro. and Sister T. V. McMillian, Rt. 5, Box 29, Neosho, Mo. 64850.

AUTUMN REVIVAL AT WICHITA, KANSAS

Lord willing, the Wichita fall meeting will be held Oct. 28 through Nov. 6, 1977. We are looking to the Lord to burden the ministers of His choice to come and bring forth the Word needed. We desire the prayers of all saints that the Lord will send strong conviction that will cause some hungry souls to surrender.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams at (316) 264-8481. His address is 2643 No. Spruce, Wichita, Kansas 67219.

SUPPORT THE NATIONAL MISSIONARY FUND

Dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, who came to this sinful world and endured the shame, and shed His innocent blood for our redemption. Praise His Holy name!

"My sheep hear my voice, and a stranger they will not follow," said the loving Saviour. I am glad we heard His voice and made Him our Shepherd. We can truly say, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." It is good to hear His voice and obey it. We recommend Him to every soul. We also read that if we refuse to hear His voice we shall not escape the judgments of God.

We want to say that we appreciate those who support the National Missionary Fund. Most of all, we are thankful for the report of those who have found the Lord precious through the tent evangelistic effort. We are living in the gleanings time. The enemy is trying his best to discourage every effort. Thank God for a lesson we received some years ago of the value of one lost soul and the concern we should have for one. Multitudes are on the road to eternal damnation. It will take more effort now to reach the few than it did when the harvest first began. Let us not allow the enemy to cool us down with that attitude of "what's the use?" I fear many will be weighed and found wanting because of a cold and indifferent attitude.

We have been challenged to adorn the doctrine of Christ more with our lives that those we meet may see Christ in us. Pray for us. We all have a mission field right around us. We must be faithful, for the Lord will not bless unfaithfulness.

To those who desire to help in this effort for souls and want to designate to what mission fields you desire it to go, we welcome you to make it known. We do appreciate those who have a burden for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

—Bro. Ralph M. and Sis. Inez Beisly

(Please send offerings directly to the treasurer, Bro. Ralph M. Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kansas 67337.)

Prayer Requests

Okla.—Remember Bro. Waldo Eck in prayer. He has a serious affliction. He only weighs 108 pounds. Sis. Beatrice Eck still needs prayer, but is some better. They are at their daughter's home in Muskogee, Okla.

W. Va.—A sister in the Lord needs special prayer that the Lord will work out some problems for her.

Ohio—Bro. Mark Spinks needs prayer. He has pneumonia, but at this writing he is some better.

Texas—Sis. Velda Ellis and Sis. Carolyn Holland need healing.

Nigeria—"Bro. Pruitt and all the saints in America, will you continue praying for me as my blood is not very good. I can't sleep well at night . . . This is a big problem for me because I cannot preach the gospel as much as I want to."

—Bro. Ben Taylor

Ill.—"We are still holding on for complete healing."

—Sis. Ruth Rathbun

Wisc.—"I have a lame and sore right arm. It seems that arthritis has set in on the other one. I am holding on for complete healing . . . We have a new problem. Deer poachers are causing us problems. . . . Pray for us."

—Sis. Florence Knoll

Mich.—Remember Bro. and Sis. Floyd Hines in prayer for their bodies. Sis. Hines has been very sick, but is some better now.

Mo.—"Remember my husband in prayer. He has muscular dystrophy."

—Zelma Talley

W. Va.—Pray for God to comfort the family of Sis. Olive Keene who passed away Sept. 19th.

Mo.—"Remember my niece, Regina Campbell (age 10), who got a terrible gash in her leg. Pray that it will heal without any infection."

—Eldonna Rhoades

Mo.—"Sis. Beulah Peterson was injured internally, while helping with some lifting. She needs earnest prayer."

PATZCUARO, MEXICO REPORT

The Lord is blessing us in this little village even though there have been several groups who have come here to have their services. But even then, we must realize that God is well able to care for His Church. Even little children have told me that the other services were strange and that it wasn't the same. We must all make a choice of whom we serve and I feel that the saints have held true to the truth. If we keep a love for the truth I don't think that we will be easily deceived by other ideas. We still desire that you help us pray for the people here in Patzcuaro. We know that God is still working here and we want to be willing instruments in His hands.

Last week-end we went to Ojos Negros for meeting. The Lord met with us there and the services were rich and anointed from the Lord. There were several testimonies and special singing and all were uplifting. There were several out for meeting from Ojos Negros, so the house was full with the 14 of us from Patzcuaro. Brother Mayarino Escobar, with others from Ojos Negros, are planning, Lord willing, to come here the last of this month for meeting on the week-end.

We thank you for your letters and offerings you have given and also for your prayers. We do appreciate it and humbly ask your prayers, and remember we will be praying for you also.

With Christian love, —Edith and Paulino Lara

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Aug. 17)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, each dear one there, and saints abroad: We send our loving greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ who "loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." Rev. 1:5,6.

Thank you very much for your encouraging letter dated Aug. 2, 1977, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. We are very glad to note that the National campmeeting there closed with victory and many souls were saved.

I just came home last night after visiting several places as Trichur, Challissery, Chethannur, and Kodassery in the northern part of Kerala where I participated in meetings there. As you know, Kodassery is a new mission center where we have a good congregation now and God helped the believers to build a small chapel there for their services. It was opened for services on Aug. 15, which is Freedom Day of India. (India became an independent nation on Aug. 15, 1947.) Bro. P. D. Mathunni also participated in that meeting along with many other saints from different parts of Kerala. In fact, it is an incomplete building with only half the walls finished, but it can be used for services as the roof is on. Please pray regularly for the church there as their needs are many.

We will have an all-day meeting at Thrikkannamangal next Saturday where we expect a good gathering and many blessings from on high. We plan to have a series of meetings next week in different places during our national festival days, aiming to win many souls unto Christ and to eternal salvation. Your prayers are essential for the success of our labors here.

Sorry to note the departure of Bro. Angus Flynn. I remember him very well as he was one of my brethren and he loved me very much. May God give peace to his dear wife and all members of his bereaved family.

We love all of you and remember you in our prayers. My daily prayer is for your complete healing. Let us exchange our prayers.

Yours in His service,

—John Varghese

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Aug. 22)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, our Lord, who is coming shortly. He went away and promised that He would come again. We are expecting Him, and what a joy when we shall see Him face to face!

Thank you for your letter dated Aug. 2, 1977. Its enclosures are acknowledged with immense thanks to God Almighty. It is encouraging that we enjoy your regular communication. The gate of the Church of God is closed to racialism, color segregation, and partiality.

On this mission field we are obeying the Great Commission. We have left all for Christ's service and it is producing an abundant harvest.

From Owerri in Imo State came a report from Bro. Patryks E. Obi that the air that way is polluted with false doctrines spread by false preachers and teachers of Pentecostalism.

The chapel at Abbi is being roofed with corrugated iron sheets. Women in this congregation are more energetic and excel in holy living. The Utagba-Ogbe congregation is spiritually healthy. Many here, both male and female, are sanctified to discharge their gospel duties. To him that overcometh shall the crown be given. News from both River and Cross River States is satisfactory. The members are reported spiritually alive. They are in need of us for more evangelism. Lord willing, we shall heed the call when the rainy season is over. The gospel van is doing fine. It is now forward ever; backward, never.

Yours for souls, —Titus U. E. Enu, pastor

REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Bro. Mayarino and wife write that the Lord is blessing the work there and there is a large attendance at each service. Sis. Rosa Melendrez, who is on crutches, is still holding on to her declaration made during the campmeeting, to trust the Lord all the way for her healing. Sis. Catalina, whose husband is not saved, but who owed a bill in Ojos Negros he didn't plan to pay, desired to attend the campmeeting but was denied because of the bill against them. On Thursday during the campmeeting, several of us went to visit Catalina. She immediately said, "Sister, I got the witness this morning while in prayer that the bill will be paid and I will be in campmeeting. I don't know how the Lord is going to do it, but I know He is. I have been taking in washing and have some saved toward paying it, but the rest, only the Lord knows how it will be paid." Telling her I knew the Lord had worked and was working, I handed her some money that had been given to me to apply on her bill. She exclaimed, "Oh, Sister, that will complete the payment. How I do thank the Lord!" Catalina is 22 or 23 years of age and has five children. She and the children were all ready on Saturday when a group went to pick them up. They were able to stay all day Saturday and through the Sunday service. It surely was encouraging to see one so young in the Lord have that much faith, and the Lord rewarded it.

The last year and a half I was in Ojos Negros, Alejandrina, a neighbor and Rosa's mother-in-law, accepted the offer of sleeping in a bed at the mission house after replying to the question: "Aren't you crowded?" She had been sleeping in a three-quarter bed with a child at her head, one at her feet, and one on either side. Out of respect for the favor, she began to attend services. She was 67 and had been a Catholic all her life. She was taking care of a sick lady 240 miles away and it had been reported that she would not be able to come to the campmeeting. She did arrive and came to every service possible, and one night made her way to the altar for salvation. She later remarked that the Lord had known her heart and had worked it out for her to be able to be in campmeeting and to be saved. She said she had wanted to go to the altar for a long time. We thank the Lord for His faithfulness in dealing with precious souls. She and the same lady will be in San Diego for three months. When I called her on my way home, she said, "I'll surely be praying for you." Those were sweet words and the first time I had ever heard them from her. Pray

earnestly for all there who have truly begun to walk with the Lord.

A sister of Sister Chuy's (a member of the congregation), had a stroke, went to the doctor, but he could do nothing for her. She couldn't talk. She came to services with Sister Chuy, got saved, then put her case in the hands of God. He has touched her and she can talk so that we can understand her. Praise the Lord!

Several tracts are presently being printed and by God's help will be distributed soon to all addresses we have. One mailing to all usually runs about 3,000 tracts. Other doctrinal tracts and books are being translated for printing. We almost have another message on tape to send to those on the tape ministry line. Pray for all workers as we labor for Him. To those of you who send anonymous offerings, we want to say thank you and may the Lord richly bless you.

Yours for the saving of precious souls in Mexico,
—Mayarino and Panchita Escobar, Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, Cfa. Mexico, and Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA (Part Three)

Sun., May 15: Awoke early, spent some time with our blessed Lord, then ate breakfast and went to Sunday school and worship where it seemed good to the Lord to use Bro. Huskey for the message. After dinner we both went down to the Belize River behind the village with some of the boys to get cooled off, as the climate is very warm and humid. While in the river I stepped on some object that punctured my foot. I thought perhaps I should go back to the compound and wash the wound with soap and water, but when we got back, I forgot about it until during the evening services. Our Lord had given me a message, but later the foot began to bother me. After we were dismissed I went outside and looked at the wound. It had become red, and felt hot and feverish. I felt that I should get back home and clean it up, but the enemy began to roar, "I've got you now; you came down here to work for God, didn't you? Well, now you are going to get to die for Him or at the very least lose a foot." I started home, but met a young brother that works for the government who desired to talk on the Scriptures, so I did not get home until very late. I had the brethren pray for me and we claimed the promise that "with his stripes we are healed," committing it to God's care, and I went to bed and had a good night's rest. In the morning it seemed very much better, and by night almost completely healed. All glory to His name! All that remains is a little black spot. I am thankful for His mighty healing power. Truly He is just the same today!

Mon., May 16: Once again our blessed Lord got us through customs without a passport. Truly, it is a blessed experience to be in the King's service. We went over into Guatemala and passed out some tracts on the street and at a carnival. Pray that the seed sown will find root in good ground and bring forth fruit.

Tues., May 17: This was our last service here in Belize. I was so fatigued this evening that I did not care for conversation and made up my mind I would not preach, but desired that Bro. Huskey have the message.

Our Lord did give Bro. Huskey a message, but as it drew to a close I felt the Holy Ghost mightily move upon me with Scripture and a message putting judgment to the line and righteousness to the plummet, so they heard two messages the last night. Also, the minister from an independent church, who was there, desires us to come back and spend some time with them. Pray about this.

Wed., May 18: Bro. Huskey doubts if we can reach our plane before it leaves now. We left on an early foggy morning via bus for Belize City and Chetumal airport. Our Lord gave us a speedy, pleasant trip until we reached the border. We cleared the Belize side for exit, then walked over the river to the Mexican side and cleared their customs. As we went down the line, we came to the place where one must prove he has had smallpox shots within the last three years. I never have, and did not care to now, as my trust is in God, so I began to pray, "Lord, I need help again; I am trusting you," and praise God, another miracle. The man asked the young lady ahead of me, but when I stepped up, he seemed to forget what he was there for and let me pass on without a question about it. Then outside waiting, we began to realize that it was highly unlikely that our bus could get us to the airport in time, as they were still on the Belize side and it was less than an hour before takeoff. We asked about a taxi, but, no, there was none. We tried to hire an official who came out to take us, but, no, it was not possible. Bro. Huskey got out in the street and tried to stop some of the Mexican men in the cars and hire them for a taxi, but, no, they wouldn't even stop. He went to find a phone and call a taxi to come out from town, but I began to think, "Why not just ask our Lord for help again?" So that is what I did; I stood by the luggage there by the side of the road and began silent prayer, seeking God to provide a ride for us as we had just completed a mission in His service and now did so much desire a speedy trip home to our families. What do you think happened? Shortly after I ceased praying a white pickup circled around me and the driver opened his door. I do not know what he said, but I tried to make him understand that we needed to go to the airport. He nodded his head, yes. I left him to watch our luggage while I went to find Bro. Huskey. When I told him the Lord had provided us a ride, he put down the phone book and ran back to the pickup, said something in Spanish to the driver and began to put our suitcases in the back. Away we went. When we got within sight of the airport, he said, "There it is," and we saw our plane waiting for us. Praise God, for His great power and mercy! We jumped out and Bro. Huskey went to pay the stranger, but he refused and would take nothing, so we shook his hand, hurried to the plane and flew to Mexico City.

My flight from there to the States was for May 20, but as I was released from the mission a day early, I had asked someone before if it were possible to leave a day early. They said, "No, in Mexico if you break your reservation, it takes two or three days to get it re-established," and besides I had not done as required and confirmed my reservation 72 hours in advance. No, it was not possible for me to do this. It might take several days for me to get home! Ah, but it's whom you know! I knew that my Father ruled this universe and could do as He pleased, so I asked Him to fix it up for me. Then I went back into the airport. When I arrived, I hunted up a

Braniff man (instead of the Mexicana airline from whom I had bought a ticket) and asked him if I could take one of their planes back to Kansas City tomorrow. He said he would call in and find out, so pretty soon he told me, "Yes," if I could come down tomorrow afternoon they would have me a seat. I was very thankful, but reasoned, "If my Father can do this, why wait? Why not go in the morning?" So I asked the man if this would be possible. He got back on the telephone—a long while this time, but finally turned around and said, "Yes, you be here at 6:30 a.m. and you can go." Praise God! Now I firmly agree with Gabriel, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." (Luke 1:37). He lives and rules and can do whatsoever He will!

Thurs., May 19: Our gracious Lord flew me back home on a jet plane He had prepared! I talked some enroute with a young mother who was seated beside me. She is a Baptist and claims to believe in and love God, but doesn't believe that He can, or will, save us from all sin in this life. Oh, the terrible, gross darkness that blinds their eyes! Oh, how I wish they could come to know and love Him as I do! He is truly sufficient for our every need.

Your Brother in Christ,

—James F. Broker

FROM THE MAIL BOX . . .

Canada—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings to all of you in holy Christian love.

I received your letter dated August 31 along with the good tracts. Thank you kindly, Bro. Pruitt, and especially for your willingness to print the tract as well as the little booklet for us in the German language. I am sure God will bless and reward you for it.

The dear Lord is very precious to me and it seems that the longer I serve Him the sweeter He grows. Praise His holy name! Presently I am working on the translation to German of the booklet, "Old Paths v.s. New Light," and I expect to have it ready toward the end of this year. It takes me longer to do it as I have many interruptions. . . . That is the prime reason why my translation work on the book, *The Birth of a Reformation*, came to a standstill. However, I dearly wish and hope to see that precious book be made available to the German readers. It would surely be a blessing to all who would read it with an open heart for the truth. Well, it is the Lord's work, and He can provide the time and means for someone to undertake the task.

Let us all remain faithful.—Bro. Reinhard Mueller

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings of love to you and all the saints in the precious name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

I am rejoicing in my soul for salvation and the goodness of God toward me. I thank God for victory and for the peace of God in my heart. Surely, in these troubled times we can bring all our burdens to the Lord in prayer and receive help in time of need.

I still need help in my body, but God has gotten good to my soul in this trial and I can truly thank God. He surely knows what is best for His trusting children. I desire an interest in your prayers for my wife and unsaved children. I am praying that the Lord will extend

His healing hand in your behalf and completely heal you.

Here is an offering toward the printing paper. . .
Christian love and prayers, —James Kutra

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Oregon—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of love in the name of our precious Lord!

I returned from the Pacoima, Calif. campmeeting which was very inspiring. A number of new saints attended and stayed for most of the meeting. They were Hazel Blevins, Marilyn Olsen, Minnie Martin, and Sis. Delaney. They all seemed to enjoy the meeting and some of them were at the early morning prayer-meetings. Several souls were saved. I didn't keep track of the number that went to the altar, but it seemed that many souls were touched. . . .

With love, —Sister Lucille Trimble

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Trinidad, W. Indies—Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord: Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I have received the tracts, and how grateful I am for them! Since I got those tracts I haven't read anything else but them. After work when I go home, I sit down and read two or three before I do anything else, and at bedtime also. I really enjoy reading them and pondering on the wonderful words and works of the Lord. I know and love the Lord. He's the only source of life to me. I want all of you to pray for me for God to give me strength and guide me in the right path.

May God richly bless all of you in your daily work with Him.

Yours in Christ, —Patricia Chauharja Singh

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

N. Carolina—Dear saints: Greetings in the name of the Lord. We want to thank God today for His wonderful salvation—how it brought us from darkness into His marvelous light. We still have victory in our souls. Praise God! We have made a firm stand and mean to go right on until the crown is won. Continue to pray for us.

Love in Christ, —Bro. and Sis. Jimmie McDonald

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Idaho—Dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings today in the sweet and precious name of the One who has never failed His trusting children. I am so glad that I ever learned "the joy this Salvation brings." It is wonderful that we have a Physician that can be reached and touched by our cries and deliver us in the way He sees best.

I wish to thank the dear saints for their prayers, also the burden they carried for me during my affliction. The truth that I found out last week is too good not to tell. I was in need of having my glasses changed, so an appointment was made and after the examination the doctor could find nothing wrong with my eyes. Isn't that enough to cause us to shout praises to our King?

The 11th day of Nov., 1976, something happened to my right eye and it became crossed to the extent of about four feet over. We have a picture hanging by the front door and it was from this I measured the extent of the crossing. For about three months I had to close one eye in order to drive and this was the year to get my driver's

license. I was quite fearful. However, I am farsighted and this did help, and the Lord permitted me to pass with no trouble. Yet I continued with this crossed condition until in Feb., if I remember rightly, then it gradually cleared away. Then when the doctor could find nothing wrong with that eye it surely did cause me to rejoice. I need both eyes to care for our dear Daddy as he is helpless and requires constant care.

We want to thank each one for remembering us in our battle of many trials, but again we can say the Lord has been our Helper. It appears that Daddy will not be with us much longer, but the way he is suffering, a release would be glorious for him. Not so for me, but God will provide.

Yours for lost souls, —Ruby M. Marken

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Mo.—Dear Sister Marie, all the saints and readers: I do love the Lord and His truth. God loves every soul and made a way that all could be saved.

I am thankful for the prayers that went up for my mother, Sister Katie (Marler) Gibson. She had us to call Bro. Donald Sharp from Myrtle, Mo., to come, anoint and pray for her. He came and we believe she is getting along better. She sits up more and comes to the table to eat. Please keep praying for her. Remember me also as I want to keep able to take care of her.

While I was in Oklahoma, my daughter Viola was suffering so bad with her side. We called Guthrie for prayer and the Lord burdened Bro. and Sis. Leslie Busbee, Sister Edith Wall, Sister Vera Forbes and Sister Roberta Hightower to come and pray for Viola. She was healed. Later, she had some teeth pulled and did not get along well. She was prayed for and was soon well. We thank the dear Lord for all His blessings in this life, and we couldn't begin to count them all.

Mother thanks everyone for their prayers, and still desires prayer for much more help.

Trust the Lord is blessing all of you there at the office.

Love and prayers, —Sis. Cassie Wilson

PRAISE FOR FREEDOM

Out of the miry clay He brought me,
And cleansed me all within;
From all iniquities I am free—
Yes, He set me free from sin.

The toils of the world I want no more
Because of peace within;
Now I have opened my heart's door
And invited Jesus in.

My trembling hand now He holds,
And glorious things He speaks to me,
Nothing from Him will I withhold—
I am from sin set free!

Friend, to me He gave this peace;
I'll never from it part.

His loving grace shall never cease.
Why don't you open your heart?

—Wanda Christian

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

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Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: A writer asks, "What is man's purpose in life? Why did God create man?"

Answer: The fact that God created man within itself would not necessarily tell us a great deal about man because God created everything else, too. But the time, manner and condition in which He created him tell us much about man. There is no other part of the entire creation like unto man. Because God created man last of all we conclude that He was preparing the world He had made with all its living things, animals, herbs, fruit bearing trees, etc., and with the sun, moon, and stars, etc., to light, warm and control the climate and atmosphere of the earth, etc., to be a suitable residence for the tenant He was to make and place in it. It was out of special deference to man that He made all the rest.

In Gen. 1:26 we read: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: . . ." This was said of none of the other creatures God created but when it came to man He made him an intelligent, reasoning, spiritual, discriminating, free acting agent with the power and right of free choice. Holiness, righteousness, and truth were in his inward parts since he came fresh from the hand of God. All of these things were existent attributes in God and man must possess them also to be in the image and likeness of God.

God is love, but love is an attribute which can never be satisfied without a full return of affection from the object of its love. Hence man was made with an inherent, built-in capacity for loving God and responding to Him. Man in his creative state fresh from the hand of God was perfectly fitted for an associate with God. This was the prime objective God had in creating man—that they might associate together and love each other and hold communion and sweet fellowship together. In Gen. 3:8 we read, "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. . . ." It was, no doubt, common practice for God to walk and talk with the man He had made.

It seems also in Gen. 1:26-28 that God had in mind for man to be a kind of general manager and overseer of all the work of God's hands in the earth—he was to have dominion over every living thing that moveth upon the earth and was to subdue it—verse 28.

In Isaiah 43:7 we read, "Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, . . ." Ah! there we have it; created for God's glory.

Man lost all of this image and likeness of God out of his nature through the fall into sin which corrupted the entire human race. Consequently he had to be banished from the presence and fellowship of God. Gen. 3:22-24. God still loved man and had the same purpose and objective for him, so He devised a plan of salvation for him and sent Jesus to make an atonement for man's sin and to perfect an arrangement for restoring man back to his creative state in communion and sweet fellowship with God, by the sacrifice of Himself and the shedding of His own blood for our cleansing from sin.

In describing the work and effects of salvation the Apostle Paul said in Col. 3:10, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of

him that created him." He is then restored back into the image and likeness of God. Also Eph. 4:24 says "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." This puts man right back where he is qualified to associate with God and hold communion and sweet fellowship with Him as at the beginning. In fact we read in Eph. 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." This is an enlightening text pertaining to the question under consideration. It makes it clear that God ordained before (even from the beginning) that we should walk in good works and be eligible for sweet fellowship with Him.

Again we read in II Cor. 6:16, ". . . for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." This text makes it clear again what God's real purpose and objective was in creating man—to dwell in them and walk in them and hold sweet fellowship with them. Job 7:17 says, "What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?" And verse 18 says, "And that thou shouldest visit him every morning, . . .?" This makes it clear that God loves man, has His heart set upon him, and desires to hold communion with him daily.

Then it is evident from these texts and many more that God made man that He might have a being upon whom He could bestow His love and who would be capable of responding to that love and returning it to Him by loving Him with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength and thus to glorify God.

FAITH INDEED

Remember the Bible story about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and their encounter with King Nebuchadnezzar? These three Jewish lads were condemned to a fiery death because allegiance to God Almighty was placed above obeisance to an earthly king.

What was the supreme test of their faith? Was it their defiance of the King's command?

Did they with a haughty spirit declare that their God would save them?

On the other hand did they submit to the inevitable with a whimpering spirit?

The point of the story is clear. Their spirit and words establish dramatically that in a crisis experience faith in God sparkles like a precious jewel.

Consider their words:

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." Daniel 3:17, 18.

That is a testimony of total and practical commitment. Not just a response to a demand of God. No superficial pumping up of courage, but rather, resting confidently and securely in faith that the purposes of God will be fulfilled in the lives of those who trust Him.

—Selected

"The road to heaven is often marked with many tempting parking places."

TALENTS



"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliverest unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliverest unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matt. 25:14-30.

Has the Lord given us a talent? If so, are we using it? Has He called you to preach or pastor a church? Maybe He has called you to be a missionary or an evangelist. The Bible says that the harvest is great, but the laborers are few. If He has given us money, we should use it to the glory of God, helping to spread the gospel. Maybe your talent is giving out gospel tracts, visiting the sick, and praying with them. Maybe your talent is singing to the glory of God. He may want you to be a special witness for Him, talking to people about their souls. Maybe He has called you to be a prayer warrior. Jesus wants us to use our talents or callings, whatever they may be, small or large. Sometimes, because He has not called us for a big job, we just sit still, but He does not want us to hide our talents. We should each examine our heart and life to make sure we are not hiding our talents as the man did who had only one talent. He was afraid, so he hid it and didn't use it. God gave it to someone who would use it, even though they already had more. He cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness. We should brighten the corner where God

has placed us, whether in a large congregation or just a few. We should love to meet with the dear saints of God as often as possible to worship God in spirit and in truth and to be an encouragement to one another, as we see the day of our Lord's coming approaching.

—Sis. Pearlene Whitson

The Nature of Man



"What is man?" (Psa. 8:4). This is one of the greatest questions that has ever been asked. The Grecian sage whose maxim was, "*Know thyself*," enjoined upon men a task well-nigh impossible. The problem of *man* is well stated in three questions: What am I? Whence came I? Whither am I going? To the first one of these questions partial answers at least have not been wanting; but the other two, touching man's origin and destiny, have always remained a profound mystery aside from the light thrown thereon by divine revelation.

Attempts have been made to account for man's origin by an ingenious theory of descent from lower animals, but this hypothesis utterly fails to satisfy the mind, from the fact that it does not account for the First Cause of all known things. Furthermore, it is certain that whatever is evolved must in the first place have been *involved*; that is, the highest degree of development of which any object is capable was inherent in that object in its most undeveloped form. Thus, the nature and peculiar properties of the fully developed oak tree were all present in some marvelous manner in the acorn from which it grew. To illustrate further: if it could be really shown that man has descended from the frog by a process of development, it would be certain that that primitive frog possessed in an undeveloped form all the marvelous faculties to be manifested later in a Newton, a Humboldt, or a Bacon. Mere development cannot create nor develop new properties. When the evolutionists affirm that man has descended from the moneron or some other simple form of primitive life, the mystery of the true origin of man's nature is not even touched; for whence did this moneron derive those powers which are capable of such a high degree of development and perfection? Simply to throw these things a few million years further back does not account for the origin of anything, hence is no explanation whatever. Therefore man's origin, as well as his destiny, is a subject of revelation.

Origin

Turning to the Bible, we find the only satisfactory account of man's beginning. "So God created man in his own image . . . male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:27). From this original pair, Adam and Eve, the entire human race has sprung; for Eve is declared to be "the mother of all living" (Gen. 3:20). The Bible writers uniformly acknowledge this common origin of man. Thus, Malachi asks, "Have we not all one Father? hath not one God created us?" (Mal. 2:10). Paul affirms that God "hath made of one blood all nations of men . . . for we are also his offspring" (Acts 17:26, 28).

The unity of the human race has been acknowledged also by the greatest scientists and thinkers, Prof. Owen, Cuvier, Max Muller, Darwin, Locke, Humboldt, Chas. Bell, Buckland, Bunsen, Lord Brougham, James Mc-

Intosh, and others. This fact is important, for upon the unity of the race is based the one universal plan of redemption.

From whatever standpoint we view man, he appears as the special workmanship of God, the highest type of earthly creatures, made "in the image of God," to use the language of the writer of Genesis. This expression, "image of God," is comprehensive. It implies that special characteristics of the Divine One not found in other earthly creatures are made a part of man's being. This, man is a *moral being*. In his normal state his actions are not determined by mere instinct or expediency, or self-interest, but they are regarded as possessing in their own nature a clearly defined rightness or wrongness. In this moral discrimination man is like God. In connection with this, he possesses *freedom of will*, so that he can of his own volition decide his course of conduct. He is also an *intellectual being*, possessing a mind capable of almost infinite development, one which easily grasps the mightiest problems within the range of finite environment. Man is also a *spiritual being*, a being that naturally looks up to God, "the Father of spirits," as its author, and holds sweet converse with its Maker.

Under Moral Law

As a moral and spiritual being in God's likeness, man originally was of necessity in a state of holiness and purity. According to the Word, he was placed under moral law. To this day men everywhere are firm in the conviction that they are the subjects of moral government, directly responsible to God. And this is also the uniform teaching of the Scriptures. But the original state of holiness was forfeited by sin; hence in this respect *and to this extent* the image of God was lost. In the redemption of Christ, however, holiness is regained; therefore we are restored to the image of God. "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is *renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him*" (Col. 3:9, 10). "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man . . . and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in *righteousness and true holiness*" (Eph. 4:22-24).

A Compound Being

The Scriptures represent man as a twofold, or dual, being, possessed of body and soul, or body and spirit. "Glorify God in your body and in your spirit" (I Cor. 6:20). "That she may be holy both in body and in spirit" (I Cor. 7:34). "His flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn" (Job 14:22). "Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (II Cor. 4:16).

The "outer man," or body, is mortal. "Your mortal body" (Rom. 6:12). "Your mortal bodies" (Rom. 8:11). The body was created in this mortal condition, as the following facts show: 1. It was made out of the dust of the earth (Gen. 2:7). 2. It was given natural food to subsist upon (Gen. 1:29). 3. Man was given natural work to perform (Gen. 2:15). 4. Matrimony was instituted (Gen. 1:27,28). According to the words of Christ, marriage is an institution that does not pertain to angels nor to beings wholly immortal, such as we shall be after the resurrection (see Luke 20:35,36). 5. There was use for the tree of life (Gen. 3:22). Had man been created im-

mortal as to body, this tree of life would have been entirely useless.

But the crowning proof that man was originally mortal is the fact that he was "made" "a little lower than the angels" (Psa. 8:4, 5 with Heb. 2:6, 7). In what sense was man lower than the angels? Not morally or spiritually, for in these respects man was in God's image, and surely the angels are not higher than God is. What, then, does the expression mean? In Heb. 1:7 we read that God "maketh his angels *spirits*," that they are "all ministering spirits" (verse 14). Jesus plainly states that "a spirit hath not flesh and bones" (Luke 24:39). Therefore we conclude that man's inferiority to angels consists in his limitations due to a physical body, while the angels are wholly spirit-beings. That this inference is correct we can easily show by other Scriptures. Paul asserts that in the resurrection day "this mortal [body] must put on immortality" (I Cor. 15:53); while Jesus says concerning his people in this "resurrection from the dead," "Neither can they die any more: *for they are equal unto the angels*" (Luke 20:35, 36).

Now, according to the Scripture cited in Psa. 8:4-8, man was "made" in this inferior condition at the time when he was given universal dominion over God's works, which shows clearly that his original condition physically was the same as now—not inherently immortal—and that no specific change took place in his bodily organism as a result of the fall. The foregoing points establish this point: it is simply unanswerable. The question now arises, why, then, do the Bible writers state that death came upon mankind as a result of sin? The answer is simple. While man remained in the Garden of Eden with free access to the tree of life, his continued existence without death was assured. And when, after the fall, the decree of death had been pronounced, this decree could be made effective only by depriving him of those privileges which had before sustained his life; therefore he was driven from the garden, "lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" (Gen. 3:22). This decree did not make him mortal, for he was mortal already—taken from the ground: it did not change him from immortality to dust, but God recognized his natural condition in the words "*dust thou art*." The real sentence of God against man, resulting from the fall, is expressed in the remainder of the verse—"Unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen. 3:19). In other words, the curse placed upon man was not mortality, but *condemnation to the effects of mortality*; hence "by man came death."

Since the body of man is by nature mortal, we read that it can be "destroyed" (Job 19:26), "killed" (Matt. 10:28), it "perishes" (II Cor. 4:16), and returns to the dust of the earth (Gen. 3:19).

Is this all there is of man? No! What saith the Scriptures? "Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (II Cor. 4:16). "There is a spirit in man" (Job 32:8). This soul, or spirit, is the creative work of God. "The souls which I have made" (Isa. 57:16). It is the Lord that "layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him" (Zech. 12:1).

This is the specific sense in which God created man on the sixth day; for the physical substance out of which his body was formed was not created at that time, but it

had been brought into existence previously. And for this reason the Almighty is termed "the God of the spirits of all flesh," which are made in his moral likeness (Num. 16:22), in contrast with the "fathers of our flesh" (Heb. 12:9). Our bodies partake of the nature of our earthly fathers, hence are subject to death and decay; while our spirits, made "in the image of God," partake of His essential nature, and "God is a Spirit"—"immortal, invisible" (I Tim. 1:17). Therefore Jesus says plainly, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul" (Matt. 10:28). David affirms, "Your heart shall live forever" (Psa. 22:26).

In language still plainer the apostle Paul shows that the soul is in its own nature eternal. "Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. . . . While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Cor. 4:16-18). Language cannot make the subject clearer. The very thing that he was talking about was the "outer man," in contrast with the "inner man"; and the "outer man," being one of the things which are seen, is "temporal"; while the "inner man," being "not seen," is "eternal." And as if to make this truth still more emphatic, he says in the following verse: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (chap. 5:1). "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. . . . We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (verses 6, 8). So the "outer man" is the body that perishes; while the "inner man," the "eternal" man, is the "I" or "we" of our existence that is willing to depart from the earthly house or body, when it is "dissolved," and "to be present with the Lord."

This soul, or spirit, is the knowing, volitional, and responsible part of man. "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God" (I Cor. 2:11). Just as the Spirit of God knows the things of God, so the spirit of man knows the things of man. "Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" (Mic. 6:7). This text fixes responsibility upon the soul; and since the soul is the knowing, volitional part of man, it is the real man. In James 2:26 we read that "the body without the spirit is dead." The Scriptures represent the body as being only the instrument of the soul (see Rom. 6:12, 13). Every appeal that God makes to man is addressed to the real man—the soul.

—F. G. Smith

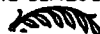
From *What the Bible Teaches*, 1913 edition

If a man buys and sells with the sole thought of getting gain and bettering himself in things of this world without any regard for the one from whom he buys or sells, he has a vain religion.

The Christian takes interest only in those things outside of Christ which he can use for Christ. If a man engages in any business he cannot serve Christ in or cannot use to Christ's glory, he lives outside of Christ.

—C. E. Orr

Tribulation



"Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended." Matt. 13:21. "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." Matt. 10:22.

Most of the time, when folks have trouble in this life, you will hear them ask, "Why does this have to happen to me?" I have been guilty of this myself; but if we look into the Word of God closely, we will see that trouble is good for us. Now I don't believe anyone likes trouble, and I believe we will avoid trouble as much as possible. But nevertheless, as long as we live in this life we are going to have trouble. In Job 5:6-8 we read: "Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward. I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause." So we see by the above Scripture that trouble is coming as sure as the sparks from a fire fly upward.

I would like to tell an experience I had with a 1966 Chrysler. This car had given such good service and I had been to California three times, and had been to the campmeetings every year in it. I felt it was a part of me. In fact I had told my daughter about three nights before I wrecked it, that as long as it ran like it did, I would never get rid of it. I had driven for 50 years and never ran into anyone. Three nights later, as I was coming home from her place, a man in an Oldsmobile backed out of a driveway onto the bypass and I pulled over in the left lane. He stepped on the gas and got about a couple car lengths ahead of me, then swung over in front of me. He applied his brakes and was going to make a turn back in the other direction. Although I applied the brakes and locked the wheels, I hit him and knocked him over in the ditch. It did considerable damage to his car and mine also. Both cars had to be towed in. The insurance he carried fixed his car, but mine was damaged too bad in the front. I stood there looking at my car and wondering why God let that happen. The Word teaches us that "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28. Although I couldn't see why this had to happen to me, God could see the future. In just a little while the price of gas began going up and in about three months I found a little 6 cylinder Dart. So I can see now why God let this happen, as I would never have given up this car because of higher gas prices. Folks, we don't need the best of this world's goods. We are just pilgrims and strangers, just passing through once. Let us "pass the time of your sojourning here in fear." I Pet. 1:17.

Paul wrote in Romans 5:3, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: [Why?] knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." As I said before, I don't believe anyone likes trouble, but because of God's schooling from troubles, we glory in them. God is trying to get every honest heart to heaven. He sees the heart and knows exactly what we need before going to heaven. What kind of persons do you think we would be, if we

didn't have troubles? We would die a spiritual death. We see in this world the plant life. If something happens that it doesn't grow, it dies. This is why we need trouble; it makes us grow in the Lord. The world can't understand these things. They that are of the world generally go down with trouble. They have no one to whom to turn. Money can't help them if they lose a wife, husband, or a child. So they turn to the lusts of this world, trying to drown their troubles, but as a rule they go down a little further and keep getting worse. David said: "The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble." Psa. 9:9. This has always been my favorite Scripture, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Read the 46th Psalm. There is a River that has plenty of water for every soul. God has everything we need or ever will need. Thank the Lord.

Have you ever seen a person begin to back off when a sinner begins to corner or persecute him? Doesn't that make you feel like you would like to get behind him and give him a shove? I have seen folks like that. They endure for a while when things are going smooth, but when tribulation begins, they seem to back off. This is what Jesus was talking about. When the going gets rough, or sickness comes, they get scared and call the doctor. That is the time to get on your knees and call on God. He is the best help you could get. Who knows, maybe He let this come upon you to try you, and to test your faith. Choose you this day whom ye will serve. Learn to resist Satan and stand on God's Word and His promises. This will make you strong in the faith. We sing a song, "From Victory to Victory"; it means from faith to faith.

Many people rejoice because of the gospel, but when they partake of a little bitterness, that all must partake of, they die and go back into sin. May God help souls to wake up and take their stand against Satan, and to glory in tribulation and the cross of Christ. For if we are His children, then we are partakers of His flesh and blood, as "he also likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Heb. 2:14-15. "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Heb. 3:12. Amen.

—Earl B. Bliss

Jesus Cares, I Know

Even in the darkest hour,
Strengthen us with grace and power;
May our faith steadfast remain,
Nevermore to fade or wane.

Even when the tears must flow,
Jesus cares and this I know;
Saviour, bless us with Thy love,
Comfort, Lord, from heaven above.

Wipe away our every tear,
Fill our hearts with joy and cheer;
May our thanks to Thee increase,
As thy blessings never cease.

—Edward M. Brandt

HELL



Hell is the sinner's inescapable doom in the lake of fire.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

I once heard about a man that said, "I know I'm going to hell, why worry?" Oh, how sad! Millions are going about life with one or more of the following attitudes: 1. I couldn't care less. 2. I can enjoy my life now and wait until later in life to seek God. 3. I'll do it tomorrow.

We have to awake and do something about it. Eternity is drawing nearer with each breath we breathe. Do we realize that one breath is all there is between us and eternity? Do we realize our life is in the hand of another? That person is God.

Hell isn't going to be for a day, a year, 5 years, or 25 years. It won't be for a hundred or a thousand years. IT IS FOR ETERNITY!

We have a story in Luke 16:22-24 that should make us realize we must repent and change our lives if we haven't already. It is about a rich man and a poor man (beggar). This beggar was Lazarus, and he lay at the rich man's gate. "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

Verse 25 goes on to say: "Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented." This rich man begged for just a drop of water to cool his tongue. This devil's hell is the reward for a carelessly lived life. People are plunging in one right after the other, like the water over a waterfall, with nothing to stop them. If we could get just a glimpse of hell, every one of us would turn to Jesus, who died that we might be saved from death and hell. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:13-14). Hebrews 9:27 says: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

I have heard of people asking why God sends people to hell. The answer to this is: God doesn't send anybody to hell, but they send themselves by not turning to Jesus Christ for salvation from sin. God didn't send His Son to condemn the world, but that through Him the whole world could be saved.

Rev. 22:12, 13, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." Rev. 16:15, "Behold, I come as a thief" in the night.

—Irwin Wattenbarger, age 17